

Patent claims

1. Method for replacing a network element in a signaling network, where the network elements, on transmission of transaction reports for initiation of functions in another network element transmit an identification code identifying the sending network and transmit a transaction code, featuring the following steps:

- directing all transaction reports between the network element to be exchanged (7) and the signaling network (1) via the exchange network element where the exchange network element (4) and the network element to be exchanged (7) use the same identifying code,
- Decision by the network element to be exchanged (4) as to whether a transaction report arriving from the signaling network (1) is intended for the network element to be exchanged (7) or the exchange network element (4) itself and depending on this decision in the first case, forwarding of the transaction report to the network element to be exchanged (7) for further processing and otherwise further processing in the exchange network element (4)

2. Method in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that

20 the transaction code of a transaction code report is registered in the network element.

3. Method in accordance with Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that

25 the transaction code of a transaction code report is changed in the network element.

4. Method in accordance with one of the Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that a transaction code which can uniquely identify the transaction report is issued by a network element for a transaction report.

30 5. Method in accordance with one of the Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that SS#7 (2) is used as the signaling protocol

6. Method in accordance with one of the Claims 1 to 5,
characterized in that
for forwarding of a transaction report the part of the signaling
protocol used is the part for processing addresses.
- 5 7. Method in accordance with one of the Claims 1 to 6,
characterized in that
one of the network elements is specified as a Signaling Transfer
Point.